



8th May 2020

Tena koutou te whanau o tenei Kura, nau mai haere mai ki te Kura Waenga o Taupo, "te kura pai o Intermediate i Taupo"

Greetings to all our families and welcome to Taupo Intermediate School – "the best Intermediate in Taupo".

"There are uses to adversity, and they don't reveal themselves until tested. Whether it is serious illness, financial hardship, or the simple constraint of parents who speak limited English, difficulty can tap unexpected strengths". Sonia Sotomayor is an American lawyer and jurist who serves as an [Associate Justice](#) of the [Supreme Court of the United States](#). She was appointed by President [Barack Obama](#) in May 2009 and confirmed that in August. She was the first [Hispanic](#) and [Latina](#) Justice.

We enter another phase of eminent change in the next two weeks and believe me when I say what ever inner strength we might have will have truly been tested.

The difficulty for us at school here is that we have a number of variables and these variables don't quite understand what some of the conditions being imposed are and getting them to put these into practice is a task in itself.

The "variables" I am referring to are, children and in our case 650 x children, 30 x teaching staff, 10 x Support staff, and of course numerous parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles, siblings and caregivers who are associated in our Taupo Intermediate 'Bubble'.

And that's just our school and I have to wonder what will need to go into place at schools with twice the number of students as us.

So we are not expected to open at the same time as other businesses as we need to put into place a high number of Health and Safety systems in readiness for an opening day which at this stage is Monday 18th May 2020.

We cannot take any students next week at all – before the opening day because although your circumstances may have changed, our environment here at school has not and will remain constant regardless.

– PLEASE DON'T EMAIL OUR TEACHERS OR ME REQUESTING A CHANGE TO THIS DIRECTIVE WHICH IS SET DOWN BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION.

We are working on what are plan will look like at Taupo Intermediate School and will cover our Health and Safety requirements including hand washing and use of Hand Sanitizer, protocols for coughing and sneezing and also amking it clear that we will be sending students home immediately if we suspect that they are not well.

One of the difficulties we faced prior to the lock down was getting up to date information – phone numbers , addresses, emargency contact numbers, updated family composition and court decsions and who is the current caregiver.

We want you to spend sometime getting this information together and so when we want to update our data base we can.

Lots of support for families including some of our families, never happened because we didn't have the right and or up to date information.

The scenario is "if we had to get in touch with you in an emergency who we going to call... ..ghost??"

But in all seriousness, we have to have this information and if it changes then you need to let us know.

We will be expecting that all our students and families need to understand that we will be expecting a high standard of adherence to the protocols in place here when we reopen and that we will not tolerate any breaches unlike the "lawlessness" exhibited in the community.

That we will all be positive about what is expected and help to all stay safe.

We will send out a letter to all next week following the uplifting of the Covid level outling the timeline for things to happen and so lets be sensible out there and remember we are still in Level 3.

If I have to be patient and wait for a few more days before I can go and check out my foreshore and seabed then I am expecting that we can all do it.

I did see that we were able to devour 5 x weeks of takeaway food in one week following lockdown. It just goes to show how competitive we are by trying to beat each other to the counter, yeah boy?

Well enjoy your last wekend in Level 3 – stay home do your lawns and gardens, bake some bread and look after your mother – breakfast in bed is a good gift!! And Dad cook Sunday roast for dinner, now that's a great Mothers day!!

Rugby is just around the corner eh!! Yeeha!!

Wiremu Clarke

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

A big hello from lockdown to all our students, staff, and community. We appreciate that the past six weeks have been challenging and we have faced unprecedented change and uncertainty. We hope that you and your families are safe and OK.

On Monday we held our second Board meeting for the year - over ZOOM. To be honest it was weird holding our meeting in this way but reassuring for all of us to connect face to face, albeit electronically. At our meeting we acknowledged the work done by Mr Clarke and our staff to support the continued learning and support of our students. The planning that started over six years ago by Mr Clarke and a former Board to establish a lap top programme and an e-learning strategy has enabled our school to be in an excellent position to continue delivering meaningful learning and connection to nearly all of our students electronically. As a Board we have continued to champion this programme and in situations like COVID-19 pandemic, we can rest assured that this effort has been well invested. Thank you to Mr Clarke and to the staff who have supported the laptop programme and allowed so many students that have moved through the Intermediate to continue their learning online.

At our meeting we reviewed our [Charter](#) and priorities given this new environment and we have attached a copy of our Charter for your information and review. The school is reviewing our Prospectus now and reviewing the programme and what we can offer for the rest of the year, given the pandemic restrictions. Mr Clarke will be communicating these changes directly with the community. During the

year we will be making an assessment of the impact the pandemic has had on the learning outcomes of students and reflecting on the pros and cons for online learning in the context of our future models of learning. We will be consulting with the community about your experiences and reflections of this time. At this stage, we would appreciate your feedback about the Charter via email to Mr Clarke - principal@taupointermediate.co.nz.

On Monday everyone will know when we can move to Alert level 2 and our school can re-open. We are all looking forward to school starting again and for our students and community to be connected safely in person.

We hope you are being kind to yourself and your tamariki. We look forward to seeing you at school again and thank you for supporting the learning and safety of your children during this difficult time.

All the best

Vanessa Donald CHAIRPERSON